

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:**

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

**SUBMITTED TO:**

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

**Report Date:** 27 July 2015

**Reason for Submission:** ("X" means purpose of the report)

<b>Casualty Identification:</b>		<b>Burial Information:</b>	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

**Supporting Documents:** (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

<b>Casualty Identification:</b>		<b>Burial Information:</b>	
Bousfield, Frederick P.	i	Bedford House Enc. 4	<a href="#">link</a>
43 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion	i	West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	i
Corporal #420977	i	Plot 11 Row C Grave 68	i
Date of Death 7 June 1916	<a href="#">link</a>	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Attestation Papers	<a href="#">link</a>	Cemetery Schematic	<a href="#">link</a>
Service Record	<a href="#">link</a>	Graves Registration Report	8
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	9
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	4	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	5	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	6	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other – Bousfield Signaller	7	Reporting and Review	10

**Summary of Findings:**

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 11 Row C Grave 68, Bedford House Cemetery Enclosure No. 4 lists a Corporal of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion who was a Signaller.

A review of all of the Corporals of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion listed on the Menin Gate Memorial clearly shows that only Corporal Frederick Percival Bousfield #420977 meets all of the requirements to be listed for this location.

## Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 11 Row C Grave 68 are those of Corporal Frederick Percival Bousfield #420977, a Signaller with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion.

The findings are based on the following:

1. Corporal Bousfield was killed in action on June 7, 1916 during the advance of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division on Sanctuary Wood in the Zillebeke Sector, commonly referred to as the Battle of Mount Sorrel. His grave site was registered (Attachment #1).
2. The remains of Corporal Bousfield were not identified as having been recovered and matched to those at the Bedford House Cemetery, thus his name was inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium (Attachment #2).
3. The War Diary of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion for that period is clear that the unit was in action in the area west of Zillebeke in the period from June 2-13, 1916, and that casualties were recorded (Attachment #3). On June 7<sup>th</sup> the unit was in the ZILLEBEKE TRENCHES, during which time there were four killed. On June 9<sup>th</sup> the unit moved west towards Maple Copse.
4. The area where the remains of Corporal Bousfield were recovered is in agreement with the placement of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion on June 7, 1916, just to the west of Zillebeke (Attachment #4). This is an important distinction relative to the location of the remains of other Corporals of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion who were lost in either Sanctuary Wood in June 1916 or Passchendaele in October 1917.
5. The only other Corporal of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion CEF that was killed in action in June 1916 in this sector, and listed on the Menin Gate Memorial, was Cpl. Alan William Bottomley #153145. He was buried near GOUROCH TRENCH in Sanctuary Wood (Attachment #5). That agrees with the description of the location of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion at that time. Gouroch Trench was identified using the digital maps provided by the Imperial War Museum.
6. There are a total of five (5) Corporals of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion listed on the Menin Gate Memorial as having no known burial location (Attachment #6). Corporals [Eykelbosch](#), [McDonald](#) and [McWhirter](#) were all killed in the Battle of Passchendaele in October-November, 1917. There is no record of their bodies having been buried in the field. Only Corporals Bottomley and Bousfield were killed in the Zillebeke Sector in June of 1916, at which time their remains were buried and the graves registered.
7. To confirm that there was a clear distinction between Bottomley and Bousfield, the service records of each were checked to determine if they had been identified as a "Signaller" with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. The results were conclusive for Corporal Bousfield, noted on his pay records as "43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Signal Section" (Attachment #7).

8. The remains of Corporal Bousfield are noted on the Graves Registration Report Form (GRRF) to be in Enclosure No. 4, Plot 11 Row C Grave 68 at the Bedford House Cemetery (Attachment #8). The form makes specific reference to the remains belonging to a Signaller of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.
9. The Concentration of Graves – Burial Return (COG-BR) notes that the remains were recovered at a location identified on Sheet 28 I22 b.8.3 (Attachment #9). The report provides the additional details that the remains were those of a Signaller of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, identified by “Titles & Chevrons”. In addition, although not used in the current evaluation, the remains were described as having 4 front teeth, 1 gold tooth and a false upper jaw. There were no records in any personal files recovered to date to match that dental record.

**Action Required:**

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #10).

It is our contention that the CWGC headstone and records for Plot 11 Row C Grave 68 at the Bedford House Cemetery, Enclosure No, 4 be amended to show that the grave contains the remains of Corporal Frederick Percival Bousfield, a Signaller with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion, killed in action on June 7, 1916.

# ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
420977	Corporal	BOUSFIELD	Frederick Percival
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
43rd Battalion	7-6-16	649-B-3883	Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"Killed in Action"			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
SANCTUARY WOOD.			
NOTE:—Boxes 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
Full Report Missing Memorial Cards.		Grave Plot Row	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.

In a garden behind cottage, West side of road, 100 yards North of Church, Zillebeke, 1½ miles East South East of Ypres, Belgium. (Grave Registered)

21. REMARKS.

# ATTACHMENT #2

E-12304

NUMBER 420977 RANK Cpl. NAME BOUSFIELD F.P.

UNIT 43rd Battn. (Can) NEXT-OF-KIN: Canada

FILE NO. R.L. 25-B.1218

D.G.R. & E. Ref.

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
7-6-16	Killed in Action.	A.76

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
X	<p>Burial report by G.R.O.</p> <p>In Garden behind Cottage west-side of R.D. 100 yds. N. of Church. Yillcheke. 1/2 m. E.S.E. of Eppes. Belgium.</p>	<p>Authority on R.L. B.R/440/D.G.R.E.</p> <p>Authority on R.L. B.R/465/D.G.R.E.</p>

**MENIN GATE  
MEMORIAL**

# ATTACHMENT #3

WAR DIARY		Original		Army Form C. 2118.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY				
43rd Canadian Battalion. Cameron Highlanders of Canada.				
(Please heading not required.)				
June 1916.				
Summary of Events and Information				
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES SALIENT.	7-6-16.		Bn. in ZILLEBEEK TRENCHES. Commendation by G.O.C. for work done during Present operation. Wind West by South. Casualties. 4 Killed, 12 wounded.	A.N.
"	8-6-16.	3.45 a.m.	Bn. relieved and proceeds to BELGIAN CHATEAU. Wind West.	A.N.
BELGIAN CHATEAU.	9-6-16.	4 p.m.	All water bottles to be filled preparatory to move. Bn. again moves forward Working Party worked until 1.30 a.m. putting in new trench from corner of LOVERS WALK and BORDER LANE to S.P.14. thence to elbow DURHAM LANE. Heavy bombardment by the enemy. 3. wounded.	A.N.
YPRES SALIENT.	10-6-16.	2 a.m.	43Bn relieves 52th Bn. H.Q. at DORMY HOUSE. 2A Platoon relieved 2 Platoons 58th MAPLE CORPSE. Both sides artillery active all evening, extraordinary number of enemy's shells blind. "B" Coy. bombers beat off enemy bombing at dusk at Block Hill STREET. Our artillery opened heavy bombardment. Bn. scouts went over parapet to reconnoitre and reported both going out and coming in. 181 O.R. reinforcements arrived from the Base. Wind. North. Casualties. 4 Killed, 29, wounded. (Killed includes Lieut. F.J. Watson.)	A.N.
"	11-6-16.	3.15 p.m.	Bn. still at DORMY HOUSE. Divine Service held at DORMY HOUSE by Major C.W. Gordon. Bn. relieved by 58th Bn. Enemy reported massing troops apparently with a view to attack. Casualties. 5 Killed, 8 wounded.	A.N.
BELGIAN CHATEAU.	12-6-16.	10 a.m.	Bn. arrives at BELGIAN CHATEAU. Our artillery opens Bombardment. Casualties. 3 wounded.	A.N.
"	13-6-16.	1.30 a.m.	Canadian attack. Bn. ordered to relieve 58th Bn. Relief ordered is cancelled. Casualties, Nil.	A.N.
"	14-6-16.	5.30 p.m.	Bn. ordered to move to ZILLEBEEK BUND. According to orders received the time will be advanced sixty minutes, eleven o'clock will become midnight. Casualties. 4. wounded.	A.N.
YPRES SALIENT.	15-6-16.	2.30 p.m.	Bn. at ZILLEBEEK BUND. Order received for relief and Bn. will proceed to Scottish Lines. 2449 Wt. W14957/890 750,000 1/16 J.R.C. & A. Form C/1492.	A.N.

## ATTACHMENT #4

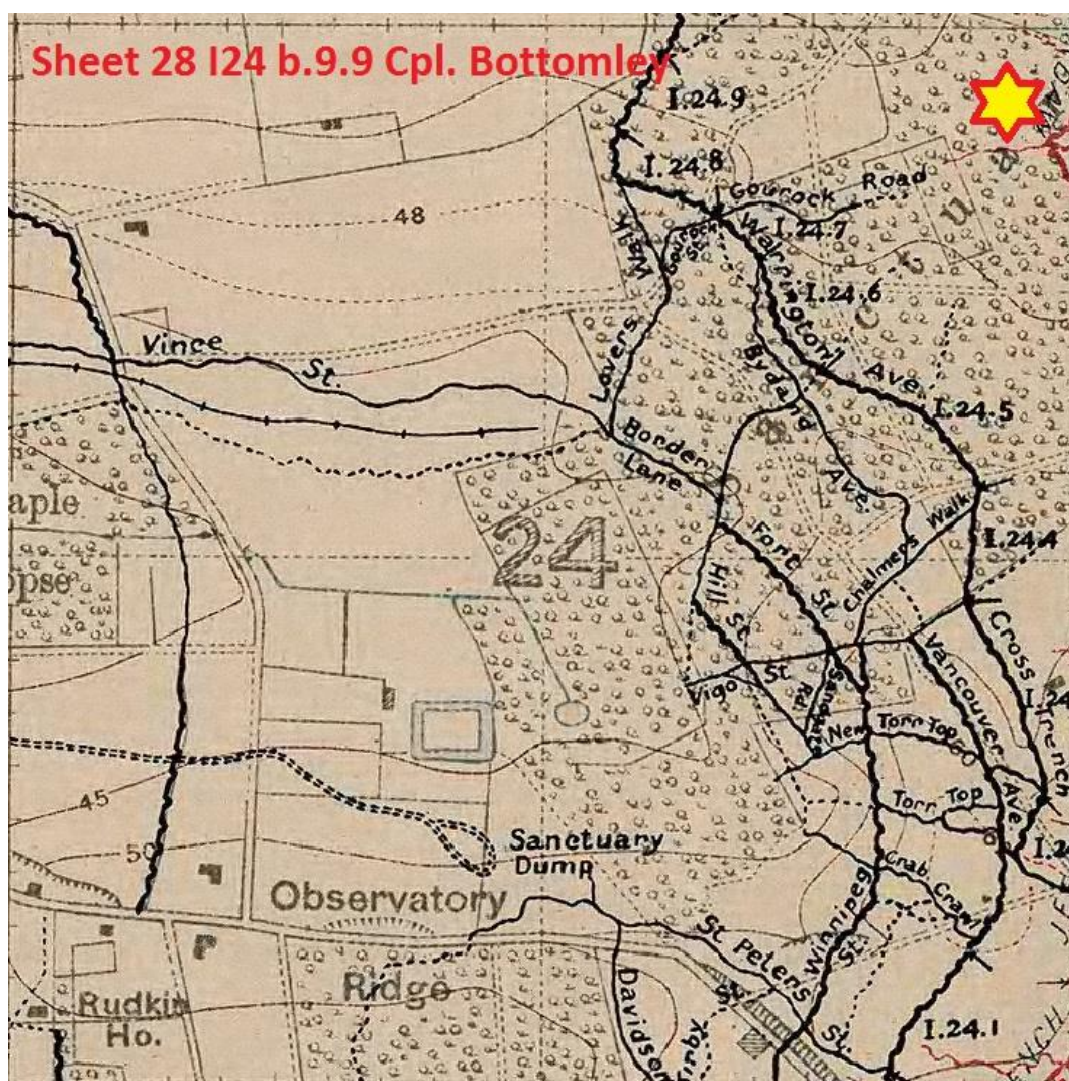


# ATTACHMENT #5

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. Surname	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
153145	Corporal	BOTTOMLEY	Allan William
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
43rd Battalion	11-6-16	649-B-3985	Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	



## 20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.

Buried in grave yard opposite Gourock Road, Sheet 28.I.24.b.9.9.



# ATTACHMENT #6

5 record(s) match your search criteria

◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
BOUSFIELD, FREDERICK PERCIVAL	Corporal	420977	07/06/1916	20	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
BOTTOMLEY, ALAN WILLIAM	Corporal	153145	11/06/1916	28	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
McWHIRTER, JOHN	Corporal	420752	14/11/1917	21	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
EYKELBOSCH, FRANK	Corporal	153848	26/10/1917	20	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
McDONALD, F	Corporal	420995	26/10/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	

# ATTACHMENT #7

L. L. Job 80137-M. & D. 5083.

MILITIA AND DEFENCE  
ASSIGNED PAY  
OVERSEAS CONTINGENTS

M. F. W. 25m.-5-15  
H. Q. 1775-50-819 299

To Whom *Mrs. F. L. Bousfield* By Whom Assigned *F. P. Bousfield*  
Address *844 Stone St* Regtl. No. *420977*  
*Winnipeg*  
*Man.*  
Rank *Lie. Corp.*  
Corps *Sig. Sect. 43 Battr*  
Rate *20.00*  
JUN 1 1915  
PAYMENTS

# ATTACHMENT #8

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT  
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Arm Form W. 3372.

REPORT No. ~~65~~ 64 SCHEDULE No. 150.C.

No. 1. Alpha I.W.G.C.

PLACE OF BURIAL  
BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY ENCLOSURE No. 4.

Commune: Zillebeke.  
Map Reference  
28.I.26.a.9.6.

The following are buried here:— PLOT. 11. ROW "C" Cont. ALL CROSSES ERECTED

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				60 C
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER				61 C
5/ C. M. R.	111034	BEST ✓	Pl H.	4.6.16		62 C
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER				63 C
3rd Bn. Canadians	9902	<del>EASTMAN (D.C.M.)</del> Cpl. G. L.				64 C
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER				65 C
4th C. M. R.	109373	HARFORD ✓	Pl F	2.6.16		66 C
M. G. C.	17486	SOMERVILLE ✓	Pl J.	26.9.14		67 C
43rd Cdn Scottish		UNKNOWN CANADIAN CORPORAL (Signaller)				68 C
PLOT. 11. ROW "D"						
<del>"B" Sqdn 3rd Dragoon</del>	<del>564</del>	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER (KIL)			EFK/12226	1 C
<del>1st or 2nd Leinsters</del>	<del>10208</del>	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			EFK/12229	2 C
1st Leinster Regt.	9520	MONAGHAN ✓	Pte. M.	5.5.15		3 C
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SERGEANT				4 C
Bedford Regt.		UNKNOWN BRITISH OFFICER				5 C
<del>3rd Bedford Regt.</del>	<del>596</del>	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER			EFK/12228	6 C

ENTERED 14.9.23  
SLIP CHECKED 16.10.23

(5 31 5) W3150—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1024) Forms W3372/3

26. COPY.

ZILLERKE 64-344.E.

1/9/196E.

ALL BROSSES ERECTED.  
12.2.23.

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Excavation and Re-burials).

BURIAL RETURN.

Name of Cemetery of Re-burial BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY ENCL. No. 4. ZILLERKE 38.1.26.a.9.6.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was Cross on Grave?	Regimental particulars.	Means of Identification.	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
P.11.	D	31	28.D.30.b.9.8.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER Royal Inniskillings	Titles & Clothing	No.
"	D	32	"	"	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER Royal Inniskillings (False dentures top & bottom)	Titles & Clothing	No.
"	D	33	"	"	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER Royal Inniskillings	Titles & Clothing	No.
11	C	67	28.D.21.c.5.4.	"	17486. Pte. Somerville, J. Machine Gun Corps. 28-9-17.	2. discs.	Yes. 2. discs. EF/X/13174
P.11	C	68	28.I.22.b.8.3.	"	UNKNOWN CANADIAN CORPORAL 43/Canadian Scottish. (Signaller.)	Titles & Chevrons 4 Front Teeth upper jaw false 1. Gold.	No.
(Sgd) F.R. Cheeves. Asst. Registration Officer, for Area Superintendent. No. 1. Area I.W.G.C.							

## **ATTACHMENT #10**

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

<b>Procedure:</b>	<b>Guideline Criteria for Submission:</b>
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	<a href="mailto:rlaughton@laughton.ca">rlaughton@laughton.ca</a>	Report Author
Tim McTague	Private Researcher, CEFSG	<a href="mailto:timmct@verizon.net">timmct@verizon.net</a>	Reviewer
Chris Wight	Private Researcher, CEFSG	<a href="mailto:guardsmancgg@hotmail.com">guardsmancgg@hotmail.com</a>	Reviewer